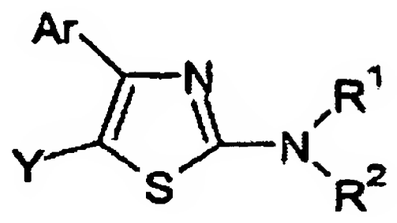
**Amendments to the Claims:**

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (original): A compound of formula



I

in free or salt form, where

Ar is phenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, cyano and $C_1$-$C_8$-haloalkyl, or naphthyl,

$R^1$ is hydrogen, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_8$-haloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl, carboxy, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkoxycarbonyl and acyloxy, or $R^1$ is a 5- or 6-membered monovalent heterocyclic group,

$R^2$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl, acyl or -CON($R^3$)$R^4$,

$R^3$ and $R^4$ are each independently hydrogen or $C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached denote a 5-or 6-membered heterocyclic group, and

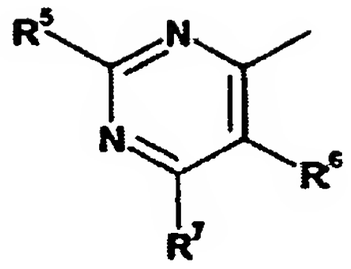
Y is a pyrimidinyl or pyridazinyl group, optionally substituted by at least one $C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkylthio, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkylamino, di($C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl)amino or acylamino group.

Claim 2 (original): A compound according to claim 1, in which Ar is phenyl optionally substituted by halogen or cyano.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A compound according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which $R^1$ is phenyl optionally substituted by cyano, carboxy or $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy, or $R^1$ is a monovalent 6-membered N-heterocyclic group.

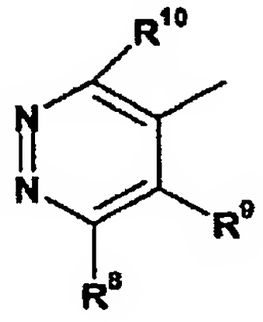
Claim 4 (currently amended): A compound according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3,~~ in which $R^2$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkylcarbonyl, 5-membered heterocyclylcarbonyl, or phenylcarbonyl in which the phenyl moiety is optionally substituted by $C_1$-$C_8$-alkoxy.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A compound according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, in which Y is a group of formula



IV

where $R^5$ and $R^6$ are each hydrogen and $R^7$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl or $C_1$-$C_4$-alkylthio, or Y is a group of formula



V

where $R^9$ and $R^{10}$ are each hydrogen and $R^8$ is hydrogen or di($C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl)amino.

Claim 6 (original): A compound according to claim 1, in which
Ar is phenyl substituted by halogen or cyano,
$R^1$ is hydrogen, phenyl optionally substituted by cyano, halogen, carboxy or $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy, or $R^1$ is a monovalent 6-membered N-heterocyclic group,
$R^2$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkylcarbonyl, 5-membered heterocyclylcarbonyl or phenylcarbonyl in which the phenyl moiety is optionally substituted by $C_1$-$C_8$-alkoxy, and
Y is pyrimidinyl or pyridazinyl optionally substituteed by $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkylthio, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkylamino, di($C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl)amino or $C_1$-$C_4$-alkylcarbonylamino.

Claim 7 (currently amendedl): A compound according to **claim 1**, in which
Ar is phenyl substituted by cyano meta to the indicated thiazole ring,
$R^1$ is hydrogen, phenyl substituted by cyano, fluorine, carboxy or $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy or $R^1$ is 6–membered N-heterocyclyl having one or two ring nitrogen atoms, optionally substituted by $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl or $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy,
$R^2$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkylcarbonyl, furylcarbonyl or $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxyphenylcarbonyl, and
Y is a group of formula IV or V as defined in **claim 5**.

Claim 8 (original): A compound according to claim 1, substantially as described in any one of Examples 1–16.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1 in combination with an anti inflammatory, bronchodilatory, antihistamine or anti-tussive drug substance, said compound and said drug substance being in the same or different pharmaceutical composition.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 for use as a pharmaceutical.

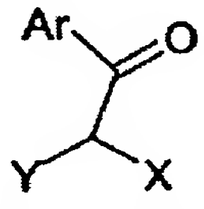
Claim 11 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1; optionally together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The use of a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition mediated by activation of the adenosine A2b receptor.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The use of a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of an inflammatory or obstructive airways disease.

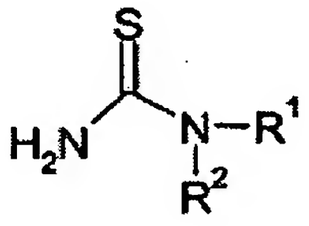
Claim 14 (original): A method of preparing a compound of formula I in free or salt form which comprises

(i) (A) for the preparation of compounds of formula I where $R^1$ is optionally substituted phenyl or a 5- or 6- membered heterocyclic group, reacting a compound of formula




VI

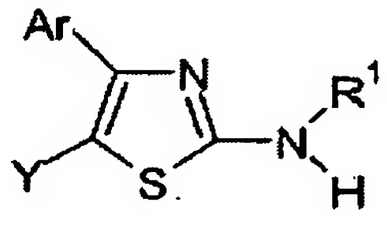
in the form of a salt, where Ar and Y are as defined in claim 1 and X is halogen, with a compound of formula




VII

where $R^1$ is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_8$-haloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl and acyloxy or $R^1$ is a 5- or 6- membered monovalent heterocyclic group, and $R^2$ is H or $C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl or

(B) for the preparation of compounds of formula I where $R^2$ is acyl or -CON($R^3$)$R^4$, reacting a compound of formula




VIII

where Ar, $R^1$ and Y are as hereinbefore defined with, respectively, an acylating derivative of a carboxylic acid or with a compound of formula C1-CON($R^3$)$R^4$) where $R^3$ and $R^4$ are as defined in claim 1, and

(ii) recovering the resultant compound of formula I in free or salt form.